

104th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - House Document 104-213

REQUEST TO MAKE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS TO-  
TALING \$100,000,000 IN BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR  
THE FOREST SERVICE

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COMMUNICATION

FROM

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

TRANSMITTING

HIS REQUEST TO MAKE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING  
\$100,000,000 IN BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR THE FOREST SERVICE  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND TO DESIGNATE  
THE AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE AS AN EMERGENCY REQUIRE-  
MENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(b)(2)(D)(i) OF THE BALANCED  
BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, AS  
AMENDED, PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C. 1107



MAY 14, 1996.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered  
to be printed

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29-011

WASHINGTON : 1996

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, May 14, 1996.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives,*

SIR: In accordance with provisions of P.L. 103-332, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1995, I am transmitting a request to make available appropriations totaling \$100,000,000 in budget authority for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

The previously appropriated funds that are hereby made available are for the Forest Service's emergency wildland firefighting program. Funds appropriated to the Forest Service in FY 1996 for fire suppression, together with existing balances, are not sufficient to cover the expenses estimated to be incurred during this fiscal year.

I designate the amount made available in accordance with P.L. 103-332 as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with her comments and observations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.





THE DIRECTOR

Estimate No. 10  
104th Congress, 2nd Session  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 14, 1996

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available emergency wildland firefighting appropriations totaling \$100 million for the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Your approval of this request would make available contingent emergency funds appropriated in the FY 1995 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. These funds would be used to pay for the costs of wildland fire suppression efforts of the Forest Service incurred in FY 1996.

FY 1996 has been an active fire year so far with major early season wildfires in Texas and Oklahoma, and significant additional fires in New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

The amount designated by Congress in report language for Forest Service fire suppression in FY 1996 will soon be exhausted. Consequently, the proposed \$100 million emergency release is needed to cover estimated fire costs for the remainder of this fiscal year.

P.L. 103-332, the FY 1995 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, provided \$250 million to the Forest Service in contingent emergency funding for wildland firefighting. Of this amount, \$150 million was released in February 1995 for costs of the 1994 fire season. The remaining \$100 million now requested would become available provided that you notify Congress of your designation of these funds as an emergency requirement. Your declaration of the \$100 million requested as an emergency requirement will make the funding available. No further congressional action will be required.

I recommend that you designate the \$100 million requested to be made available in accordance with provisions of P.L. 103-332 as an emergency funding requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Agriculture in recommending that you approve this request by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alice M. Rivlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "A" and "R".

Alice M. Rivlin  
Director

Enclosures

**EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY  
APPROPRIATED MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**FOREST SERVICE**

**Emergency Forest Service**

Firefighting Fund.....	\$100,000,000
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Public Law 103-332, the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 1995, provided \$250 million in contingent emergency funding for the Emergency Forest Service Firefighting Fund. The availability of these funds was made contingent upon Presidential notification to the Congress of his designation of this funding as an emergency requirement.

Of the original \$250 million provided by P.L. 103-332, \$150 million was made available in February 1995 to cover the costs of the FY 1994 fire season. The remaining \$100 million now requested will enable the Forest Service to cover the costs of wildland fire suppression efforts in FY 1996. Due to higher-than-average firefighting costs, funds appropriated in FY 1996 for this essential program and existing balances are not estimated to be sufficient to cover the expenses incurred.